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Agenda item 20 (c)

Sustainable development: disaster risk reduction

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Anneli **Lepp** (Estonia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/73/538, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 23rd and 27th meetings, on 8 November and 3 December 2018. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.6 and A/C.2/73/L.6/Rev.1 and amendments contained in document A/C.2/73/L.59

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/73/L.6).

3. At its 27th meeting, on 3 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/73/L.6/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.6.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, made a

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[1] See A/C.2/73/SR.23 and A/C.2/73/SR.27.

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statement and introduced proposed amendments to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.6/Rev.1, as contained in document A/C.2/73/L.59.[2]

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the proposed amendments had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at its 27th meeting, the Committee rejected the proposed amendments contained in document A/C.2/73/L.59 by a recorded vote of 117 to 44, with 8 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Turkey.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.6/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.6/Rev.1 (see para. 17, draft resolution I).

[3] See A/C.2/73/SR.27.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.15 and A/C.2/73/L.15/Rev.1 and amendments contained in document A/C.2/73/L.58

9. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Disaster risk reduction" (A/C.2/73/L.15).

10. At its 27th meeting, on 3 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/73/L.15/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.15.

11. At the same meeting, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, made a statement and introduced proposed amendments to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.15/Rev.1, as contained in document A/C.2/73/L.58.[4]

12. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the proposed amendments had no programme budget implications.

13. Also at its 27th meeting, the Committee rejected the proposed amendments contained in document A/C.2/73/L.58 by a recorded vote of 121 to 44, with 8 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, *Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan,* Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Turkey.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.15/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

15. Also at the same meeting, Armenia, the Russian Federation and Switzerland joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

16. Also at its 27th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.15/Rev.1 (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

17. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 69/218 of 19 December 2014, 70/110 of 23 December 2015 and 71/227 of 21 December 2016 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000, and taking into consideration all other relevant resolutions,

Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind,

Noting also that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

Reaffirming the Sendai Declaration[1] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[2] adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[3] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Noting that further research on the impacts of climate change, including the effects of arctic changes on the El Niño phenomenon, can support more effective planning for resilience and recovery,

Noting also with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

[1] Resolution 69/283, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming also the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[5]

Reaffirming further its vision of cities and human settlements that adopt and implement disaster risk reduction and management, reduce vulnerability, build resilience and responsiveness to natural and human-made hazards and foster mitigation of and adaptation to climate change,

Noting with concern that the El Niño phenomenon has posed a serious challenge to the hard-fought development gains of developing countries, particularly in terms of diverting resources from national development plans and programmes,

Conscious of the importance of enhanced concerted efforts by the World Meteorological Organization with relevant national, regional and international monitoring centres to deliver, effectively and in a timely manner, more regionally focused climate services as well as training and capacity-building related to El Niño/La Niña, and noting the role of the International Research Centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador, in this regard,

Recalling that the peak of the 2015/16 El Niño was comparable in strength to the 1982/83 and 1997/98 events and, therefore, one of the strongest on record, and affected more than 60 million people during 2015 and 2016, in particular in developing countries, with significant short- and long-term impacts on the health of individuals, the economy and food production locally, regionally and globally, particularly affecting people whose livelihood depends on agriculture, fisheries and livestock activities,

Noting with concern that, as a consequence of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon, heavy rains, floods and, conversely, cold waves and heatwaves, wildfires, coral bleaching and drought episodes adversely affected countries and peoples, in particular in Latin America, Eastern and Southern Africa and South-East Asia and the Pacific, including by increasing the spread of diseases and the number of people displaced, affecting food security and infrastructure and hampering the ability of those countries and peoples to achieve sustainable development,

Noting with appreciation that some countries were able to partly reduce the adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon by designing and implementing government-led early action plans that included the establishment of resilient multipurpose dams and other infrastructure projects, reinforcing existing social and productive infrastructure, revitalizing health services to combat vector-borne diseases, and strengthening social support services, safety nets, appropriate and preventive agriculture practices, income-generating public works and welfare programmes,

Acknowledging the importance of humanitarian assistance provided to countries that were most affected by the adverse effects of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon, while stressing the need to transcend this approach in favour of a multidisciplinary

[5] Resolution 71/256, annex.

and articulated development-based response to strengthen national institutional capacities and effectively address these adverse consequences,

Noting that the World Meteorological Organization has predicted a 70 to 80 per cent chance of a weak El Niño/Southern Oscillation phenomenon prevailing during the winter of 2018/19 and a 55 to 60 per cent chance of its continuing into the spring of 2019 to be the most likely scenario,

Noting also the work of the Special Envoys on El Niño and Climate by the Secretary-General in calling attention to the severe short- and long-term impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño, which culminated in the submission of the report entitled "Preventing El Niño Southern Oscillation episodes from becoming disasters: a blueprint for action",

Noting with appreciation the inclusion of the discussions on the important contributions of science, technology and innovation to building resilience to the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the El Niño phenomenon held during the multi-stakeholder forums on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting that the sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Geneva, from 13 to 17 May 2019, on the theme "Resilience dividend: towards sustainable and inclusive societies",

Noting also the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General, to be held in New York in 2019,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[6] which includes a section on an effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon;

2. *Urges* the effective implementation of the Sendai Declaration[1] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;[2]

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of developing multi-hazard strategies at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels by 2020, in line with Sendai Framework, that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of the El Niño phenomenon, while recognizing ongoing national initiatives by affected countries to strengthen their capacities;

4. *Recognizes* the continued efforts by the Governments of Ecuador and Spain, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to support the International Research Centre on El Niño, and encourages them and other members of the international community to continue to make such contributions for the advancement of the Centre;

5. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken so far to strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, through collaboration with international monitoring centres, including national oceanographic institutions, and encourages further efforts

[6] A/72/259 and A/73/268.

to enhance regional and international recognition of and support for the Centre and to develop tools for decision makers and government authorities aimed at reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon;

6. *Notes* the assistance provided to Governments by the International Research Centre on El Niño and by other Governments and institutions in the development of early warning systems that allow for the implementation of anticipatory risk reduction measures that contribute to the reduction and prevention of the potential human, economic and environmental impacts of the phenomenon;

7. *Recognizes* the contributions of the United Nations system, namely, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Food Programme and the Word Meteorological Organization, to guidance on and action planning for El Niño, as a phenomenon that causes impacts of a multisectoral nature, including on food security, livelihood, health and water and sanitation, and encourages strengthened collaboration also with other relevant institutions;

8. *Recognizes also* the technical and scientific support of the World Meteorological Organization in producing regionally coordinated monthly and seasonal forecasts, in particular its establishment of a consensus mechanism for the development of updates on El Niño/La Niña conditions, which receives contributions from several climate centres, and also recognizes various initiatives undertaken by different countries to strengthen national and regional capacities;

9. *Encourages* the World Meteorological Organization, in this regard, to continue to strengthen collaboration and the exchange of data and information with relevant institutions;

10. *Encourages* Governments to promote the full, equal and effective participation and leadership of women, as well as of persons with disabilities, in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-responsive and disability-inclusive policies, plans and programmes on the preparation for and response to the El Niño phenomenon, and recognizes in this regard that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihoods and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters, and that disasters and the consequent disruption to physical, social, economic and environmental networks and support systems disproportionately affect persons with disabilities and their families;

11. *Stresses* that during neutral El Niño and La Niña years it is critical to prepare for, build resilience to and reduce the risks of the next event, including through integrated plans;

12. *Encourages* responses to the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon not only to address the immediate needs but also to support longer-term sustainable development and build the resilience of livelihoods especially in the agricultural sectors and rural areas;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to provide financial, technical and capacity-building support to countries affected by the El Niño phenomenon, prioritizing resources to developing countries;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider further discussing recommendations on how to better

identify requirements and options for the adequate provision of science, technology and innovation elements to enable countries to address the impacts of the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon, as appropriate;

15. *Encourages* the annual Global Infrastructure Forum to identify and address, as appropriate, infrastructure and capacity gaps and needs to enhance preparedness and promote early actions in countries affected by the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon;

16. *Encourages* the sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to include in its discussions ways to enhance preparedness, build resilience, promote early actions, reduce risks and address the impacts of the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon, as appropriate;

17. *Requests* the United Nations system, through existing coordination mechanisms and platforms, to take into consideration, where appropriate, the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon when designing risk reduction and development strategies, in particular in the context of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-Informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development;

18. *Encourages* interested Member States, with the support of the United Nations development system, to develop integrated, coherent and comprehensive government-led strategies to mitigate the adverse impacts of the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon and to collaborate in support of affected countries;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth and seventy-fifth sessions, under the sub-item entitled "Disaster risk reduction" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", a section on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to consider at its seventy-fifth session the topic "Effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon" under the sub-item entitled "Disaster risk reduction", unless otherwise agreed.

Draft resolution II
Disaster risk reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 72/218 of 20 December 2017 and all previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the Sendai Declaration[1] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[2]

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[3] Agenda 21,[4] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[5] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[6] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[7] and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[8] in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[9] and recognizing the linkages between disaster risk reduction and sustainable urban development,

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[1] Resolution 69/283, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[9] Resolution 71/256, annex.

Recognizing the need for a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk and that disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective,

Reiterating the call in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of disasters and their devastating impact this year and in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life, displacement and long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, and which hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular that of developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of promoting policies and planning that build resilience and reduce displacement risk in the context of disasters, including through transboundary cooperation,

Recalling the convening of the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 March 2016, which adopted the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and that the adverse effects of climate change, as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility, and in this regard acknowledging the internationally agreed outcomes adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recognizing also that disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and which are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,[10] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[11] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Looks forward to the Secretary-General's climate summit, to be held in New York in 2019, to accelerate global action on climate change,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters, weather-related hazards, including those driven by natural climate cycles such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation, and the adverse effects of climate change to estimate and prevent major damage and ensure an adequate response, early action and attention to the affected populations in a timely manner in order to enhance

[10] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

resilience to their impacts, and recognizing in this regard the importance of developing risk-informed strategies, risk finance tools, including forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance and coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems, including timely risk communication at local, national and regional levels,

Recognizing that disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing also that similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines,

Recalling that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction applies to risks of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/218;[12]

2. *Urges* the effective implementation of the Sendai Declaration[1] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;[2]

3. *Reiterates its call for* the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, financial and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience;

4. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for action at all levels to enhance efforts to build resilience through, inter alia, the sustainable management of ecosystems, and to build resilience to reduce the impacts and costs of natural disasters;

5. *Encourages* countries, the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, programmes and funds and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take into consideration the important role of coordinated disaster risk governance across sectors for the achievement of sustainable development and, inter alia, the strengthening of disaster prevention as well as preparedness for effective response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

6. *Encourages* focused action within and across sectors by countries at the local, national, regional and global levels in the four priority areas of the Sendai Framework, namely, understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk

[12] A/73/268.

governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and in order to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

7. *Acknowledges* the work of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system in disaster risk reduction and the updated United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, requests the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, and urges other relevant institutions and stakeholders, to continue to align their work with the Plan of Action, including through risk-informed strategic plans, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in order to enhance the coordination, coherence and efficiency of support to countries on disaster risk reduction, guided by the Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, according to the Sendai Framework;

8. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to work towards the achievement of the global targets adopted in the Sendai Framework;

9. *Recognizes* progress made in achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework and that the development of risk-informed strategic plans, policies, programmes and investments and national and local disaster risk reduction strategies are essential for sustainable development;

10. *Also recognizes* in this regard, given the shorter time frame for achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020, the scale of action needed for the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, and thus urges States to continue to prioritize and support the development of inclusive national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, with particular focus on local strategies and programmes, and to promote their alignment and integration with sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies, including national adaptation plans, as appropriate, making use of practical guidance to support the achievement of target (e), and notes in this regard the relevant voluntary "Words into Action" guidelines;

11. *Urges* States to prioritize the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases and to conduct disaster risk assessments to develop inclusive and multi-hazard risk assessments that consider climate change projections to support evidence-based disaster risk reduction strategies and guide risk-informed development investments by the private and public sectors;

12. *Reaffirms* the need for the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation, for the provision of means of implementation to augment domestic efforts in accordance with their national priorities;

13. *Recognizes* that effective and meaningful global and regional partnerships and the further strengthening of international cooperation, including the fulfilment of respective commitments of official development assistance by developed countries, are essential for effective disaster risk management;

14. *Also recognizes* that financing for disaster risk reduction requires greater attention, and invites the United Nations system and its entities, within the scope of their respective mandates, in partnership with international financial institutions,

regional development banks and other relevant institutions and stakeholders, to explore the development of tailored financing mechanisms for disaster risk reduction;

15. *Encourages* the incorporation of disaster risk reduction measures, as appropriate, into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes and infrastructure financing, within and across all sectors related to sustainable development, including poverty reduction, agriculture, natural resource management, the environment, urban development and adaptation to climate change;

16. *Encourages* States to allocate domestic resources to disaster risk reduction, to include disaster risk reduction in budgeting and financial planning across all relevant sectors, and to ensure that national financing frameworks and infrastructure plans are risk-informed, according to national plans and policies;

17. *Recognizes* the important contribution of healthy ecosystems to reducing disaster risk and building community resilience, and encourages all States, United Nations bodies and other relevant actors to promote ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction approaches at all levels;

18. *Also recognizes* that economic losses are rising as a result of the increasing number and value of assets exposed to hazards, and encourages countries to conduct a disaster risk assessment of existing critical infrastructure, to support the publication of disaster risk, to make disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for infrastructure and housing investments and to strengthen regulatory frameworks for land-use planning and building codes, as appropriate, towards the achievement of target (d) of the Sendai Framework, and in this regard encourages countries to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into social, economic and environmental investments;

19. *Acknowledges* that water is essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,[13] and that water-related disasters and multidimensional hazards threaten lives, livelihoods, agriculture and basic service infrastructure and cause substantial socioeconomic damage and losses, and that sustainable, integrated disaster risk-informed water resource management is necessary for successful disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and in this regard invites all countries to integrate land and water management, including for floods and droughts, into their national and subnational planning and management processes;

20. *Emphasizes* that disaster prevention, preparedness, early actions and resilience-building in most cases are significantly more cost-effective than emergency response, as well as the importance of additional efforts to increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning mechanisms of States, in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to support these efforts;

21. *Urges* States, while implementing the Sendai Framework, to continue working on data collection and the development of baselines on current losses, including livelihood and other losses of affected populations, and working towards the collection of disaggregated information and historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, if feasible;

22. *Encourages* States to give appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[13] where it is reflected across several Goals and targets, including in their voluntary national reviews, inter alia, through the engagement of national Sendai Framework focal points early in the national review process, as appropriate, and stresses the importance of considering disaster risk reduction in the deliberations and outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be held in 2019 and

[13] See resolution 70/1.

of taking disaster risk reduction into account in the implementation and review of the Sustainable Development Goals, including during the high-level political forum, over the next cycle;

23. *Reiterates* its strong encouragement of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as applicable, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[14] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[10] and the Sendai Framework, as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[11] the Convention on Biological Diversity,[15] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[16] and the New Urban Agenda,[9] while respecting the relevant mandates, in order to build synergies and resilience, translate integrated global policy frameworks into integrated multisectoral programmes at national and local levels and reduce disaster risk across sectors, and addressing the global challenge of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty;

24. *Urges* that due consideration continue to be given to the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework monitor;

25. *Recognizes* that disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, for a wide range of users and decision makers, complemented by traditional knowledge, and in this regard encourages States to commence or, as appropriate, further enhance the collection of data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, in reporting on the Sendai Framework;

26. *Welcomes* the launch of the Sendai Framework monitor, encourages States to use the online monitor to report on progress against the Sendai Framework global targets and the Sustainable Development Goals related to disaster risk to provide, inter alia, a comprehensive overview of progress to inform the deliberations and outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development held in 2019 and the sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Geneva from 13 to 17 May 2019, and notes the ongoing work towards coherence between national climate change adaptation and national disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as the Sendai Framework target indicators and national adaptation goals and indicators;

27. *Also welcomes* the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters;

28. *Reaffirms* that the establishment of common indicators and shared data sets to measure the Sendai Framework global targets and the disaster risk reduction

[14] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[16] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

targets of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13 is an important contribution to ensure coherence, feasibility and consistency in implementation, the collection of data and reporting, and in this regard recognizes the importance of prioritizing capacity-building support to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges;

29. *Recognizes* the extent to which developing countries are able to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures in the context of their respective circumstances and capabilities can be further enhanced through the provision of sustainable international cooperation;

30. *Also recognizes* the importance of giving priority to the development of local and national disaster risk reduction capacity-building, policies, strategies and plans with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national practices and legislation;

31. *Further recognizes* that, while each State has the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders, and recognizes that non-State and other relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Sendai Framework, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations and relevant agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations, play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels, and that greater efforts are needed to mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships for disaster risk reduction, according to national plans and policies;

32. *Welcomes* the annual observance of the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October and World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November, encourages all States, United Nations bodies and other relevant actors to observe the days to further raise public awareness on disaster risk reduction, and decides to rename the International Day for Disaster Reduction as the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction;

33. *Encourages* Governments to promote the full, equal and effective participation and leadership of women, as well as of persons with disabilities, in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes, and recognizes in this regard that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihoods and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters, and that disasters and the consequent disruption to physical, social, economic and environmental networks and support systems disproportionately affect persons with disabilities and their families;

34. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of youth, volunteers, migrants, local communities, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media, in all

forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework;

35. *Recognizes* that biological hazards require strengthened coordination between disaster and health risk management systems in the areas of risk assessment, surveillance and early warning, and that resilient health infrastructures and strengthened health systems capable of implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),[17] as well as increasing the overall capacity of health systems, reduce overall disaster risk and build disaster resilience;

36. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Switzerland for hosting the upcoming sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva from 13 to 17 May 2019, jointly organized with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, encourages participation across all sectors and ministries at the highest level possible, reaffirms the importance of the Global Platform as a forum to assess and discuss progress on the Sendai Framework and advance coherence between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation, including financing, and recognizes the outcomes of the Global Platform as a contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

37. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Armenia, Colombia, Fiji, Italy, Mongolia and Tunisia as the 2018 hosts of the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, jointly organized with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, recognizes the platforms as important mechanisms for cooperation to implement the Sendai Framework and to assess and discuss progress, and also recognizes their outcomes as contributions to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

38. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk, and encourages States to strengthen international and regional information exchange and sharing, including through North-South cooperation complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation, establishing and networking risk management centres, promoting critical science and technology research cooperation on disaster reduction and improving international coordination mechanisms to respond to large-scale natural disasters;

39. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in disaster risk reduction, the substantial increase in demands on the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for timely, stable, adequate and predictable resources necessary for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and in this regard encourages Member States to consider providing or augmenting voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction;

40. *Recognizes* the continued importance of voluntary funding, and urges existing and new donors to provide sufficient funding and, where possible, to augment financial contributions to the United Nations trust fund for disaster reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through unearmarked and, where possible, multi-annual contributions;

41. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to collaborate with the private sector to enhance the resilience of businesses, as well as the societies within which they operate, by integrating disaster risk into their management practices and to facilitate

[17] World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

private investments in disaster risk reduction and to promote risk-informed private investments;

42. *Reaffirms* that investing in national and local skills, systems and knowledge to build resilience and preparedness will save lives, reduce risk of displacement in the context of disasters, cut costs and preserve development gains, and in this regard encourages exploring innovative ways, such as forecast-based financing and disaster risk insurance mechanisms, to increase the availability of resources for Member States before a disaster is credibly expected to occur;

43. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training;

44. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Disaster risk reduction", unless otherwise agreed.